

## 5BRC Teleconference

October 16, 2017

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. MT Teleconference

Present: Kurt Nelson, Karen DiBari, Jim Keating, Susan Giannettino, Holly Crawford, John Kurtz, Zach Poff, Kirk Flanagan, Dani Mazzotta, Claire Swanger, Chip Deffe, Keri York, Jo Heiss

- **Trails Funding Committee report:** The committee has scheduled its next meeting on Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 a.m. in the Ketchum Ranger District basement; on track with agenda to develop sustainable funding for maintenance of trails by engaging visitors and residents. They met with Alan Hoag and Tom \_\_\_ and got some good feedback. Basically this is a “friends” organization modeled after the Friends of Yosemite or Friends of Glacier. They are working to articulate the need and the gap between what we have and what is needed to accomplish in order to accomplish the backlog of trail reconstruction and maintenance. The model being discussed is asking businesses to contribute toward a fund. The scope is beyond Ketchum Ranger District so the SNRA has an important role.
- **Deer Creek updates:** The FS is shifting out of Deer Creek this week. They are at a point where the road realignment is completed; about 10,000 seedlings have been put in on the uplands around the project area (new road and North Fork Trailhead); North Fork Trailhead is complete and kiosk is installed; the main Deer Creek Trailhead is complete except for the moving of the toilet (scheduled for Wednesday); two of the three bridges have been removed; restoration of the road beds is in progress; also filling in a low spot on a road that is vulnerable to flooding in the spring. All of the erosion matting and seeding is in place on the cut slopes; waiting on the permit from the Army Corps to finish riparian/instream work. The FS will be putting up temporary signs and barrier rocks to guide the public on where they can or can't access for now, and then in the next two weeks they hope to open up public access for the fall. The FS is leading a field tour this afternoon at 1 p.m. with the County Commissioners and Levy Advisory Board. Ketchum Ranger District recently led a field trip with the Regional Forester (in a snowstorm) and everyone was very impressed with the partnerships. Dani spoke with Evelyn last week; she needs some additional GIS edits for the maps. Chris Leman had compiled all of the Deer Creek files. She will need the new routing for the map. Evelyn has the draft language but we'll need to take a look at it this winter to make sure it's the way we want it.
- **American Planning Association:** Dani, Kurt, Harry and Jim were on a panel for the American Planning Association talking about the Beaver Creek Fire on Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>.
- **BLM travel management:** Finished public comment the end of September, and the BLM received about 200 public comments. Most of them are substantive. They are now reading through all of the comments and analyzing them. Then the BLM will develop alternatives, and then a preferred alternative in early spring 2018. They will release a draft environmental assessment in May 2018. Over the next month, the BLM will be in contact with some of the commenters. Working with the Resource Advisory Committee, which has a subcommittee focused on travel management. The BLM just sent out letters to local, county, and federal governments in the planning area to see if they want to be cooperating agencies.
- **What's next for the 5BRC?** General discussion about building and moving forward...
  - What are priorities for the group?
  - What kind of future makes sense for the 5BRC?

- Probably best to have an in-person meeting for this discussion. How do we proceed into the future?
- Once BLM completes their environmental assessment, there will probably be a strong need for south valley trails. No shortage of funding opportunities on the north end, trails and otherwise. Long-term sustainability from a resource standpoint.
- Plan is to:
  - Schedule an in-person meeting in early 2018.